

REMARKS

Claims 17-47 are pending in the Application. Claims 18 and 45 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 17 and 44 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 5-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,592,577. Applicants herein submit a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate this rejection.

On page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 20-43 are allowed.

On page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 18, 19, and 45-47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Dependent Claims 18 and 45 have been amended to appear in independent form. Claims 19 and 46-47 are believed to be allowable as they depend from amended independent Claims 18 and 45.

For all of the above reasons, the claim objections are believed to have been overcome placing Claims 17-47 in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 502104.

Respectfully submitted,

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